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(11)

EP 0 926 303 A2

(12)

## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:  
30.06.1999 Bulletin 1999/26

(51) Int Cl.<sup>6</sup>: E04C 2/296

(21) Application number: 98309993.8

(22) Date of filing: 07.12.1998

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU  
MC NL PT SE  
Designated Extension States:  
AL LT LV MK RO SI

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(30) Priority: 23.12.1997 US 68572 P

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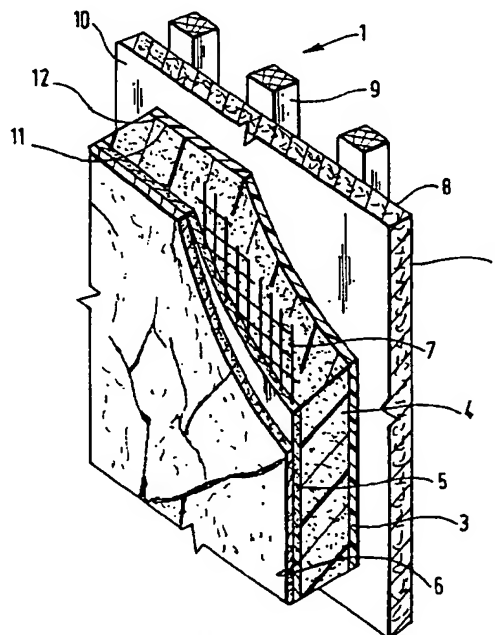
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### (54) Laminated wall structure

(57) A laminated wall structure, suitable for use in an exterior insulation finish system, comprises the following layers in the order provided:

- a layer of building sheathing (2);
- a layer of water-resistant adhesive (3) which substantially completely covers and adheres to said building sheathing (2); and
- a layer of thermal insulation (4) adhered to said building sheathing (2) by said water-resistant adhesive (3). The laminated wall structure, which can be used with all conventional building sheathings, can require less time to construct than known structures.



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## Description

[0001] This invention concerns laminated wall structures for building exteriors. Particularly, though not exclusively, the present invention relates to laminated wall structures for an exterior insulation finish system.

[0002] A building exterior constructed with an exterior insulation and finish system typically includes a laminated wall structure comprising a) a layer of building sheathing, such as wood board, plyboard, chip board, gypsum board, level masonry or concrete; and b) a layer of thermal insulation, such as expanded polystyrene, secured to the exterior surface of the building sheathing. To complete the system, the exterior surface of the thermal insulation is coated first with c) a base coat with a fibreglass reinforcing mesh embedded therein and then with d) a finish coat.

[0003] To obviate problems such as delamination and loss of integrity of the laminated wall structure, which can result from either exterior water or condensation penetrating into the building sheathing, especially when a wood- or gypsum-based building sheathing is employed, a water-resistant layer is inserted between the building sheathing and the thermal insulation.

[0004] In one embodiment, the water-resistant layer can be a water-resistant membrane, such as asphalt saturated Kraft paper and rag felt, or, as described in US-A-5027572, a polyethylene laminated rubberised asphalt sheet. The water-resistant membrane and thermal insulation layer are secured to the exterior surface of the building sheathing by mechanical fasteners which penetrate through the thermal insulation layer and water-resistant membrane into the building sheathing layer. The process of building this wall can be slow because it requires the use of many mechanical fasteners, each of which must be fitted and secured manually.

[0005] In another embodiment, the water-resistant layer can be a water-resistant barrier. For example, as described in US-A-4882888, a laminated wall construction for building exteriors comprises a gypsum-based building sheathing having a non-woven fibreglass layer covering at least one surface thereof, a water-resistant barrier in the form of a coating which completely covers the fibreglass layer, a cementitious adhesive applied on the coated fibreglass sheathing by a conventional ribbon and dab method or notched trowel method for receiving and securing an insulating layer, to the sheathing. The process of building this wall can also be slow because it requires the water-resistant coating to be applied and allowed to dry before the adhesive can be applied and the insulating layer attached. Further, the process relies upon the use of a gypsum board of peculiar construction.

It is the object of this invention to provide a laminated wall structure for an exterior insulation finish system which can require less time to construct than previously described structures and which can be used with all conventional building sheathings.

In accordance with the present invention there is provided a laminated wall structure, suitable for use in an exterior insulation finish system, comprising the following layers in the order provided:

i) a layer of building sheathing;

ii) a layer of water-resistant adhesive which substantially completely covers and adheres to said building sheathing; and

iii) a layer of thermal insulation adhered to said building sheathing by said water-resistant adhesive.

The laminated wall structure of the present invention does not suffer delamination or loss of integrity since the layer of adhesive, which substantially completely covers the surface of the building sheathing to which it adheres, forms a water-resistant layer between the building sheathing and thermal insulation. Further, the laminated wall structure of the present invention does not essentially require the use of mechanical fasteners to secure the thermal insulation to the building sheathing, and so it may be constructed relatively quicker than wall structures which rely upon the use of mechanical fasteners. Furthermore, the laminated wall structure of the present invention, by effectively combining the functions of water-resistant barrier and adhesive, can be constructed relatively quicker than a wall structure which relies upon a process involving the separate steps of applying a water-resistant coating, allowing the coating to dry and finally applying the adhesive to which the thermal insulation is secured. Moreover, the laminated wall structure of the present invention can be employed with all conventional building sheathings and is not reliant upon use of a building sheathing of peculiar construction.

[0006] In another aspect, the present invention provides an exterior insulation and finish system comprising the following layers in the order provided:

i) a layer of building sheathing;

ii) a continuous layer of water-resistant adhesive which substantially completely covers and adheres to said building sheathing;

iii) a layer of thermal insulation adhered to said building sheathing by said water-resistant adhesive;

iv) a continuous layer of base coat composition having embedded within it a fibreglass reinforcing mesh; and

v) a continuous layer of finish coat composition.

[0007] In yet another aspect, the present invention provides a building exterior, constructed with an exterior insulation and finish system, and including in the following order a layer of building sheathing, a continuous layer of water-resistant adhesive, a layer of thermal insulation, a layer of base coat composition having a fibreglass reinforcing mesh embedded therein, and a layer of finish coat composition.

[0008] In yet another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of preventing delamination and loss of integrity of a building exterior constructed with an exterior insulation and finish system including a laminated wall structure comprising a) a layer of building sheathing; b) a layer of thermal insulation secured to the exterior surface of the building sheathing; c) a base coat with a fibreglass reinforcing mesh embedded therein adhered to and covering the exterior surface of said thermal insulation layer; and d) a finish coat covering the exterior surface of the base coat, wherein the method comprises coating the exterior surface of said building sheathing with a continuous layer of water-resistant adhesive before securing said insulating layer thereto.

[0009] In yet another aspect of the present invention, a water-resistant adhesive is used to provide a continuous water-resistant layer between the external surface of a building sheathing and the internal surface of a thermal insulation of a building exterior constructed with an exterior insulation and finish system including a laminated wall structure comprising a) a layer of building sheathing; b) a layer of thermal insulation adhered to the exterior surface of the building sheathing; c) a base coat with a fibreglass reinforcing mesh embedded therein applied over the external surface of said insulating layer; and d) a finish coat applied over the external surface of said base coat.

[0010] The water-resistant adhesive layer is preferably water-resistant for a minimum of 10 minutes, more preferably for a minimum of 30 minutes and most preferably for a minimum of 60 minutes, as measured in accordance with ASTM D-779. The adhesive layer may be so water-resistant that, for all practical purposes, it can be considered a being water-proof.

[0011] The water-resistant adhesive layer preferably has a moisture vapour transmission rate of from about 4 grams, more preferably from about 5 grams, up to about 35 grams per square metre per 24 hours, as measured in accordance with ASTM E-96 Proc B.

[0012] The water-resistant adhesive layer preferably consists of a water-based, water resistant, non-cementitious adhesive. Preferably the adhesive is acrylic, although other water-based, water-resistant adhesives may be useful, such as vinyl acrylic, ethylene vinyl acetate, styrene acrylic, styrene butadiene rubber, and vinyl chloride acrylic. Such adhesives are generally available and the skilled person will know, or will readily be able to determine, which of these will be most suited for use in the present invention. For example, water-based, water-resistant, non-cementitious adhesives comprising one or more of the following commercially available polymeric binders are suitable for use in the present invention: Rhoplex 2019R, Rhoplex EI2000, Rhoplex 2200, Rhoplex EC2848 and Rhoplex A-920 available from Rohm and Haas Company; Acronal 567V available from BASF AG; and UCAR 123 available from Union Carbide Corp. Although these commercially available binders are all capable of being formulated into water-resistant adhesives suitable for use in the present invention, it is preferred to use a styrene-free binder, such as Rhoplex EI2000, Rhoplex EC2848 or Rhoplex A-920, as these tend to give higher moisture vapour transmission rates.

[0013] Preferably, the water-resistant adhesive layer consists of a water-based adhesive comprising a polymeric binder comprising units of one or more of the following monomers: (C1 to C8)alkyl (meth)acrylates, preferably ethyl acrylate and/or butyl acrylate; styrene; acrylonitrile; acrylamide and (meth)acrylic acid. The polymeric binder preferably has a glass transition temperature ( $T_g$ ) in the range  $-50^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $+30^{\circ}\text{C}$ , more preferably  $-35^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $10^{\circ}\text{C}$ , to give the adhesive formulation a good balance of flexibility and crack bridging, to accommodate expansion, contraction and other movements normally found in building structures. The adhesive formulation may comprise other components such as tackifiers or other ingredients to give the adhesive "quick grab" properties, to prevent slippage of the thermal insulating layer and minimize the time required to rasp/sand the thermal insulating layer to receive the base coat layer.

[0014] The adhesive may be applied to the building sheathing by any appropriate method. For example, it may be applied by brush, roller, trowel or by spraying.

[0015] The invention is now further exemplified with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which: FIG 1 is a schematic, fragmentary, perspective view, partially in cross section, of a building exterior, including a laminated wall structure of the present invention showing various layers and their relationship to one another.

[0016] A building exterior 1, constructed with an exterior insulation and finish system, includes a laminated wall structure, in accordance with the present invention, comprising a plywood building sheathing 2, a continuous layer of water-resistant adhesive 3 and a layer of expanded polystyrene thermal insulation 4. The building exterior also includes a base coat composition 5, which in turn is coated with a finish coat 6. Embedded within the base coat 5 is a fibreglass reinforcing mesh 7.

[0017] The building exterior 1 is constructed as follows:

The inner surface 8 of a 2.5 cm thick plywood board 2 is secured to a building framework 9 by any conventional means. Once secured, a water-resistant adhesive, having the formulation listed in Table 1, is troweled over the exterior surface 10 of the plywood board 2 to form a continuous water-resistant layer 3, approximately 1.5 mm thick, which completely covers and adheres to the exterior surface of the plywood board. The adhesive has sufficient tack such that immediately

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Table 1

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## 50

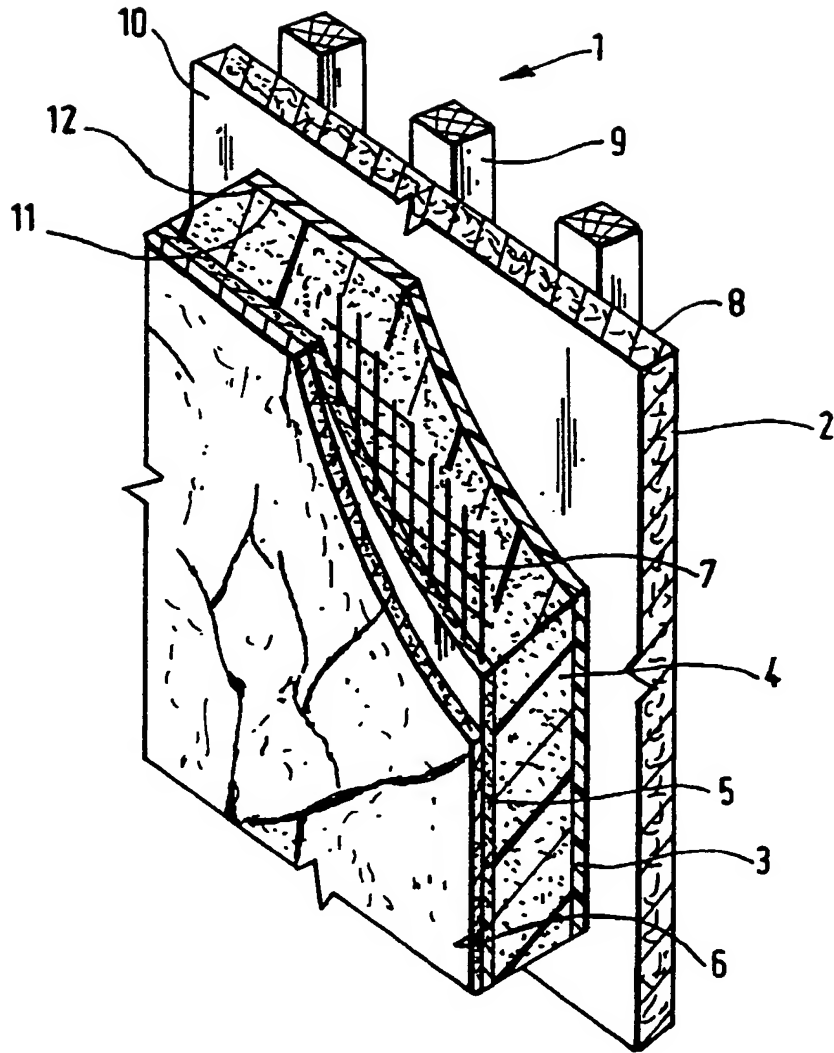
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- i) a layer of building sheathing;
- ii) a layer of water-resistant adhesive which substantially completely covers and adheres to said building

sheathing; and

iii) a layer of thermal insulation adhered to said building sheathing by said water-resistant adhesive.

2. A laminated wall structure as claimed in claim 1, wherein said layer of water-resistant adhesive consists of a water-based, water-resistant, non-cementitious adhesive.
3. A laminated wall structure as claimed in claim 2, wherein said adhesive is acrylic, vinyl acrylic, ethylene vinyl acetate, styrene acrylic, styrene butadiene rubber or vinyl chloride acrylic.
4. A laminated wall structure as claimed in claim 2, wherein said adhesive comprises a polymeric binder comprising units of one or more of the following monomers: (C1 to C8)alkyl (meth)acrylates, preferably ethyl acrylate and/or butyl acrylate; styrene; acrylonitrile; acrylamide and (meth)acrylic acid .
5. A laminated wall structure as claimed in claim 2, wherein said adhesive comprises a polymeric binder having a glass transition temperature (Tg) in the range -50oC to +30oC, preferably -35oC to 10oC.
6. A laminated wall structure as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water-resistant adhesive layer is water-resistant for a minimum of 10 minutes, more preferably for a minimum of 30 minutes and most preferably for a minimum of 60 minutes, as measured in accordance with ASTM D-779.
7. A laminated wall structure as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water-resistant adhesive layer preferably has a moisture vapour transmission rate of from about 4, more preferably from about 5, up to about 35 grams per square metre per 24 hours, as measured in accordance with ASTM E-96 Proc B.
8. An exterior insulation and finish system comprising the following layers in the order provided:
  - i) a layer of building sheathing;
  - ii) a continuous layer of water-resistant adhesive which substantially completely covers and adheres to said building sheathing;
  - iii) a layer of thermal insulation adhered to said building sheathing by said water-resistant adhesive;
  - iv) a continuous layer of base coat composition having embedded within it a fibreglass reinforcing mesh; and
  - v) a continuous layer of finish coat composition.
9. A building exterior, constructed with an exterior insulation and finish system, and including in the following order a layer of building sheathing, a continuous layer of water-resistant adhesive, a layer of thermal insulation, a layer of base coat composition having a fibreglass reinforcing mesh embedded therein, and a layer of finish coat composition.



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Europäisches Patentamt

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(11)

**EP 0 926 303 A3**

(12)

## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:  
04.07.2001 Bulletin 2001/27

(51) Int Cl.7: **E04C 2/296, E04B 1/76**

(43) Date of publication A2:  
30.06.1999 Bulletin 1999/26

(21) Application number: **98309993.8**

(22) Date of filing: **07.12.1998**

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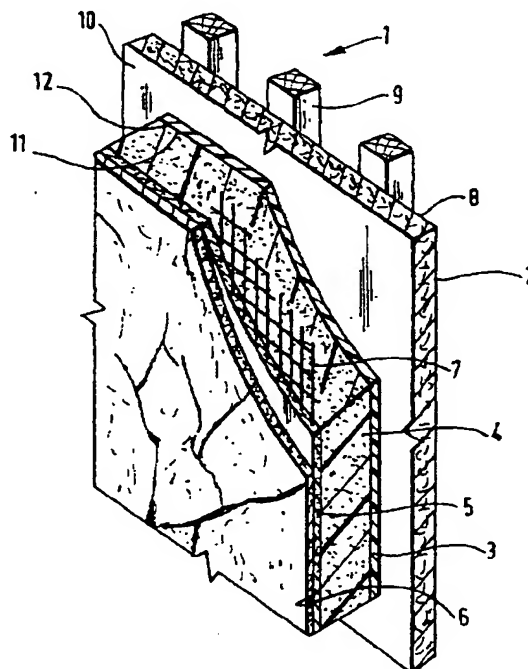
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(54) **Laminated wall structure**

(57) A laminated wall structure, suitable for use in an exterior insulation finish system, comprises the following layers in the order provided:

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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 98 30 9993

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
D, Y	US 4 882 888 A (MOORE) 28 November 1989 (1989-11-28) * the whole document *	1-5, 8, 9	E04C2/296 E04B1/76
Y	US 3 389 518 A (HORBACH) 25 June 1968 (1968-06-25) * column 3, line 9 - column 4, line 16; figure 1 *	1-5, 8, 9	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			E04B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 10 May 2001	Examiner Mysliwetz, W
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application I : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
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EP0 FORM 1503 03 02 (P/ALC/CI)



ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 98 30 9993

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10-05-2001

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4882888	A	28-11-1989	NONE	
US 3389518	A	25-06-1968	NONE	

EPO FORM P4539

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

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